

### Use of Bibles.

The world has heard a great deal about the large number of Bibles printed annually, and shipped to missionaries in India, to be distributed among the natives, whose souls Christians are extremely anxious to save from hell. The money to pay for these Bibles is raised by systematic begging, very largely from Sunday school children, whose sympathies are aroused in behalf of the benighted heathen. The Standard, published on the island of Ceylon, innocently tells the use made of those Bibles. We copy as we find it in one of our secular exchanges:

"It seems that gold leaf for decorative purposes is, as a regular matter of business, packed in little books made up of the unbound packages of holy writ cut to the requisite size for the purpose and stitched together. On inquiry it is learned the practice of packing the material in this way is a well established one, and that the Bible is selected for this purpose because, as a rule, the type is more evenly set and the printing generally finer and better executed. On the other hand, I hear from other sources that the use of the Bible is looked upon as a sort of guarantee that the leaf is of the best possible quality. It appears that the Book of Common Prayer is also employed for the same purpose."

All the gold leaf of commerce and the arts come in little books 3½ inches square with 25 leaves of gold of varying thickness. From the large amount of gold leaf now in use, mostly by book binders, decorative painters and dentists, much of it coming from Ceylon and the East Indies, it is important the shipment of Bibles to be made into gold leaf books should be continued, so it is hoped generous Christians will not withhold their contributions, otherwise the price of gold leaf may be greatly advanced. —Progressive Thinker.

### God and the Constitution.

Out of some 70,000,000 people, less than 20,000,000 of them, so reported, statistics say, are church members. Therefore, courage, brothers, there's no danger of politically injecting any orthodox God into the constitution. Saying nothing of the reported nine or eleven millions of Spiritualists, with the Unitarians, Universalists, Quakers, Shakers, Swedenborgians, with other religionists, all of whom would oppose the God in the constitution business, there is no danger of any such movement proving successful. Bigots may plan and religious sectarists may plot, but in a land where thought, speech, press and platform are free, churchanity can forge no chains, construct no pillories, nor successfully deal damnation round the land. And church

and state in European countries— everywhere—must pale and fade away before the rising sun of progress.—J. M. P.

A clergyman one day astonished the congregation by a new reading. "Look here," he said, "just do the thing that is right, and care for nobody. Take St. Paul's advice: Love your neighbor as yourself, and paddle your own canoe."—The Liberator.

Bats, strange to say, are provided with two tongues, a large one and a small one, one beneath the other, the lower and smaller one being known as the "sublingua." This peculiar phenomenon is also met with in certain apes.

The late Mr. Spurgeon, giving pithy advice to some young candidates for the ministry some years ago said: "Above all, mind you avoid inappropriate texts. I remember a brother, when preaching on the loss of a ship with all hands on board, selecting as his text, 'So he brought them to the desired haven,' and another, just returning from his marriage holiday, 'The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O, bring me out of my distress!'"

Most preachers talk of fighting  
The enemies of God,  
But never talk of righting  
The wrongs of flesh and blood,  
They talk of holy battle  
Of blood and ghastly scar,  
As 'tho men were but cattle,  
And God a beast of war.

Ah, is it any wonder  
That Christ has died in vain,  
When churches share the plunder  
Of those who live for gain?  
If this old world depended  
On such a brood as they,  
Our wrongs would not be mended  
'Til earth has passed away.  
—Man Without A Soul.

Elias Howe, the inventor of the sewing machine, proved his patriotism during the American civil war by enlisting and by frequent heavy contributions from his private purse. In November, 1862, his regiment was in Virginia, suffering great discomfort. Not having been paid off, and the men needing money, Private Howe advanced \$13,000 due to them. He sat at a table handing out the money, when a clergyman asked him for a subscription toward a new church. "Oh," said Howe, "this is war time." "Yes," the clergyman replied, "but we need churches, and hope you will give us something for St. Peter's." "Well, St. Peter will have to wait," said Howe; "just now my money is being spent on salt-peter."—Selected.

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